

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 07167 01 OF 02 021419Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20

IGA-02 NIC-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 PC-04 SAM-01 DRC-01 /148 W

----- 007633

R 021153Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 7167

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, KN

SUBJ: CHARUNPHAN ON THE NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION

REF : BANGKOK 7081

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA
HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE APRIL 29. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS
FROM AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS
ON THE NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION.

REPORTER: DID YOU MEET THE NORTH KOREAN MINISTER
OF FOREIGN TRADE THIS MORNING?

CHAUNPHAN: YES, WE HAVE MET.

REPORTER: WHAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD?

CHARUNPHAN: HE DID NOT COME TO HOLD ANY NEGOTIATIONS
AT ALL BUT HE CAME TO PAY A COURTESY VISIT. HIS VISIT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 07167 01 OF 02 021419Z

THIS TIME IS TO MAKE CONTACT AND HE IS A GUEST OF THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. HE HAS COME TO FIND A WAY TO START TRADE CONTRACTS. HE MET THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE THIS MORNING. HE THANKED ME FOR FACILITIES PROVIDED WHEN HE MADE CONTACT THROUGH OUR EMBASSY ABROAD REQUESTING PERMISSION TO COME TO VISIT BANGKOK. HE FURTHER TOLD ME THAT RESULTS OF MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE WERE MOST SATISFACTORY BECAUSE BOTH SIDES ASKED QUESTIONS AND OBTAINED INFORMATION ON GOODS THAT COULD BE EXCHANGED. IN ADDITION, HE EXPRESSED VIEWS THAT ARE INFORMATION IN REGARD TO OPERATION OF ECONOMIC WORK IN HIS COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT NORTH KOREA IS STILL IN THE FIRST 6-YEAR PLAN OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS THE 4TH YEAR OF THE PLAN AND MOST SATISFACTORY RESULTS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED IN REGARD TO VARIOUS COMMODITIES FOR EXPORT AND FOR DOMESTIC USE ALSO.

REPORTER: HAVE THEY SOUNDED US OUT REGARDING POLITICAL CONTACTS?

CHARUNPHAN: THE MAIN SUBJECT DISCUSSED DURING THEIR MEETING WITH ME WAS TRADE...THEY CONSIDER THAT THIS IS A START MADE IN MUTUAL CONTACTS, BEGINNING WITH TRADE CONSULTATIONS.

REPORTER: I HAVE HEARD THAT NORTH KOREA HAD SOUNDED US OUT IN THE PAST ON CULTURAL CONTACTS AND ON SPORTS. DID THEY BRING THESE SUBJECTS UP FOR DISCUSSION ALSO?

CHARUNPHAN: NORTH KOREA CONTACTED THAI EMBASSIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN WHICH IT HAD EMBASSIES ALSO, SUCH AS IN INDIA, IN PAKISTAN, AND IN SINGAPORE. IT MADE CONTACTS IN WAYS DISPLAYING FRIENDSHIP--I MEAN TO FIND WAYS TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THAILAND--AND THIS ATTITUDE HAS BEEN DISPLAYED FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR...BY GRADUAL STAGES. IT INCLUDED THE DESIRE FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGES, SUCH AS EXHIBITIONS OF CLASSICAL DANCING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. FAIRLY RECENTLY, NORTH KOREA EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO INVITE US TO SEND A BASKETBALL TEAM TO VISIT IT AND TO HOLD CONTESTS SIMILAR TO THOSE HELD BY OUR SPORTS TEAMS SENT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE REGRETTED THAT WE COULD NOT SEND

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 07167 01 OF 02 021419Z

A TEAM BECAUSE WHEN NORTH KOREA MADE CONTACT OUR BASKETBALL TEAM HAD ALREADY RETURNED TO THAILAND. THE LATEST CONTACTS MADE WERE STARTED WHEN THIS GROUP OF NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE...WHEN THEY WENT TO PAKISTAN AS A TRADE MISSION THEY CONTACTED OUR EMBASSY IN PAKISTAN ALSO. THEREFORE WE FELT THAT THE PROPER TIME HAD BEEN REACHED FOR US TO CONSIDER STARTING TRADE CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA. WHEN I HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM

EARLIER TODAY THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING TO BE REACHED WHEN THERE ARE TRADE CONTACTS. I SAID THAT THIS IS THE START ONLY, THEREFORE SINCE CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE I HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE IN THE FORM OF DISPLAYING GOOD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN ALL WAYS, AND THAT THEY WILL BE ORDERLY AND BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. IN REGARD TO DETAILS DISCUSSED CONCERNING TRADE, I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO GO ASK THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE...

REPORTER: WHAT IS THAILAND'S BASIC POLICY TOWARD KOREA?

CHARUNPHAN: IN REGARD TO THAI POLICY, I INFORMED THEM THAT OUR BASIC POLICY IS TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY OR ECONOMIC SYSTEM. THE PRINCIPLE WE ADHERE TO IS THAT THE OTHER SIDE MUST DISPLAY THE DESIRE TO BE FRIENDS ALSO. I EXPLAINED THIS TO THEM AND THEY SAID THAT THE POLICY OF THEIR COUNTRY IS DESIGNED IN A SIMILAR MANNER. IN OTHER WORDS, NORTH KOREA CONSIDERS THAT WHEN CONTACTS ARE MADE IT MEANS IT IS GLAD TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALL COUNTRIES ALSO, FRIENDSHIP THAT IS BASED ON EQUALITY AND CONTACTS THAT ARE IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. BUT AT THIS STAGE OF STARTING HAVING CONTACTS I WISH TO STATE THAT NO POLITICS WERE WERE INCLUDED AT ALL IN TALKS HELD, BECAUSE THE LEADER OF THIS MISSION, WHICH IS A TRADE MISSION, IS THE NORTH KOREAN MINISTER OF TRADE, THEREFORE HE CONCENTRATED ON TALKING ABOUT ECONOMY AND TRADE.

REPORTER: WAS ANY MENTION MADE OF THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS?

CHARUNPHAN: THEY INFORMED ME THAT THEY HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE TO VISIT NORTH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BANGKO 07167 01 OF 02 021419Z

KOREA. THEY SAID THAT DURING THEIR VISIT HERE THEY HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO EXPLANATIONS, TO SEE AND TO UNDERSTAND OUR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, AND OUR OBJECTIVES IN EXPORTING GOODS. ALL THIS IS INFORMATION THEY HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN; THEREFORE THEY WOULD LIKE US TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO SEE SIMILAR ACTIVITIES IN THEIR COUNTRY ALSO, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE GOOD UNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES.

REPORTER: WERE VIEWS EXCHANGED ON THE SITUATION IN THIS REGION?

CHARUNPHAN: NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THAT SUBJECT.

REPORTER: DID THEY BRING ANY LETTER OR MESSAGE WITH THEM?

CHARUNPHAN: NO.

REPORTER: DID THEY TALK ABOUT AND EXPLAIN THE POLICY
OF NORTH KOREA?

CHARUNPHAN: THE SUBJECT WAS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL,
AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY. THEY BROUGHT THE BEST REGARDS
OF THE NORTH KOREAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE
THAI MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND I RECIPROCATED IN KIND.
MASTERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 07167 02 OF 02 021408Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20

IGA-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 CU-04 SAM-01 PC-04 /148 W

----- 007463

R 021153Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2923

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 7167

REPORTER: FROM YOUR MEETING WITH THEM, DO YOU FEEL
THAT THEY HAVE COME HERE IN ORDER TO TRADE IN EARNEST?

CHARUNPHAN: TALKS ON TRADE HAVE BEEN STARTED IN
EARNEST AND I HAVE HEARD THAT THEY ARE STILL HOLDING TALKS
WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE. THEY SAID THEY ARE
VERY SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS HELD REGARDING
VARIOUS KINDS OF GOODS. I DID NOT ASK FOR FURTHER DETAILS
BECAUSE IT IS A SUBJECT WHICH CONCERNS THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY WASTE OF TIME AND THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME.

REPORTER: WHAT REACTION OR CONCERN HAS BEEN DISPLAYED BY THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY OVER THIS VISIT?

CHARUNPHAN: BEFORE WE SENT AN ANSWER TO THE NORTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION, WE INVITED THE SOUTH KOREAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO COME HERE AND INFORMED HIM OF OUR DECISION BEFOREHAND BECAUSE WE DO NOT LIKE TO DO ANYTHING BEHIND THE BACKS OF OTHER PEOPLE. IN OTHER WORDS, WE INFORMED HIM OF OUR DECISION BEFOREHAND. HE THANKED US FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 07167 02 OF 02 021408Z

INFORMATION BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS FEELINGS WERE. HAS ANYBODY HEARD OF ANY REACTION DISPLAYED?

REPORTER: WILL THE FACT THAT NORTH KOREA HAS COME TO MAKE CONTACT WITH US THIS WAY AFFECT THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA IN ANY WAY, SUCH AS DELAYING?

CHARUNPHAN: NEGOTIATIONS HELD CONCERN BOTH NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA. IT IS THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIR, THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT BE VERY PROPER FOR THAILAND TO TAKE IT UP FOR CONSIDERATION. MY PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT IT SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY RESULTS AFFECTING THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA BECAUSE THAT IS A DOMESTIC POLITICAL AFFAIR OF KOREA ITSELF. IT IS UP TO KOREANS TO FIND A WAY TO REMEDY THIS ISSUE THEMSELVES, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY STARTED HOLDING TALKS A CONSIDERABLE TIME AGO.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THAILAND OUGHT TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA NOW, OR NOT YET?

CHARUNPHAN: IT IS TOO SOON TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT BECAUSE CONTACTS HAVE ONLY JUST BEEN STARTED AND AT THE LEVEL OF TRADE ONLY. EVEN THIS GROUP OF NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES HAS NOT MENTIONED THE SUBJECT AT ALL. AS I TOLD THEM, WHAT IS OF IMPORTANCE IS TO PROVE THE CAPABILITY TO CREATE MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN ORDER TO LEAD TO GOOD UNDERSTANDING.

REPORTER: HOW MANY COUNTRIES IN ASIA ARE LEFT WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO RELATIONS OR CONTACTS YET?

CHARUNPHAN: THERE SEEM TO BE ALMOST NONE, THE ONLY EXCEPTION BEING NORTH VIETNAM WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTACT AT ALL YET. WE HAVE RELATIONS WITH MONGOLIA ALREADY. THE ONLY COUNTRY LEFT SEEMS TO BE NORTH VIETNAM.

REPORTER: DO YOU MEAN THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THOSE TWO COUNTRIES ARE STILL VERY FAR AWAY?

CHARUNPHAN: NORTH KOREA? I CANNOT EXPRESS ANY
COMMENT YET BECAUSE IT IS TOO SOON. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 07167 02 OF 02 021408Z

THAT CONTACT HAS ONLY JUST BEEN MADE, AND FOR THE FIRST
TIME, AND WE DO NOT KNOW EACH OTHER'S NATURE OR CHARACTER
YET. SOME PERSONS COMMENT THAT THE NORTH KOREAN MINISTER
OF FOREIGN TRADE SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT MOROSE, BUT IT IS
A FACT THAT WHEN I MET HIM I FELT HE IS NICE AND INFORMAL,
GESTURING WHEN TALKING IN A MANNER THAT SHOWED HE WAS
TRYING TO UNDERSTAND, DESPITE HIS HAVING TO USE AN INTER-
PRETER THROUGHOUT.

REPORTER: DID HE MENTION THE FACT THAT WE SENT TROOPS
TO KOREA?

CHARUNPHAN: IF HE HAD MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD MOST
PROBABLY NOT COME HERE AGAIN. (LAUGHTER)

REPORTER: DID HE EXPRESS ANY VIEWS ON ASPAC?

CHARUNPHAN: NOT AT ALL. HE DID NOT EXPRESS ANY
VIEWS ON ANY SUBJECT AT ALL. BUT HE SAID THAT WHEN
HE ARRIVED HERE IT HAPPENED TO BE A HOLIDAY SO HE HAD
AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MANY THINGS AND TO VISIT
VARIOUS PLACES OF GREAT INTEREST. SINCE HE IS THE LEADER
OF A TRADE MISSION WE ARE CONCENTRATING ON TALKING
OF SUBJECTS THAT DIRECTLY CONCERN HIS DUTIES AND TASK.
MASTERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO07167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740105-0478
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740581/aaaacunc.tel
Line Count: 311
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BANGKOK 7081
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHARUNPHAN ON THE NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION
TAGS: PFOR, TH, KN, (CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTHAYA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005